

5164 -

28 MAY 59

26 May 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: DCI

SUBJECT : Policy Implications Arising From Trend
Toward Military Regimes

1. Henry Ramsey of State's Policy Planning Staff (former Consul General in Madras) will brief orally on this paper. Its essential conclusion is that authoritarian military regimes are a perhaps inevitable transitional stage in the political development of many underdeveloped countries, and in many cases provide the only realistic alternative to chaos leading to Communist takeover.

2. In this sense the State study provides a sound rationale for our long-standing pragmatic policy of dealing with such regimes where they exist and no more desirable alternative is available. Hence it was rather surprising to hear Messrs. Gray and Harr heralding this as a sharp new turn in our policy.

3. The report further contains a series of suggestions as to how and in what direction we might most effectively influence the military elites in power.

4. State's presentation is generally in line with the paper we prepared last January for the Draper Committee (see tab), which was used informally in the preparation of the State study (we did not circulate it to the Planning Board).

STAT

R. W. KOMER

*Memo dtd 30 Jan 59.
Subj: Certain Problems Created
by NS Mil. Assistance
Program (See Draper file)*